A Synopsis for Proposed Research

REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN INDIAN MYTHOLOGY : A STUDY WITH SELECTED NOVELS OF CHITRA BANARJEE DIVAKARUNI AND KAVITA KANE

Submitted for

The Registration of Ph.D.Degree in English Under the Faculty of Humanities

स्वामी रामानंद तीर्थ मराठवाडा विद्यापीठ, नांदेड.

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

Researcher

Mr.Yelwatkar Gopikrishna Anantrao

Research Supervisor

Dr.Gunjalwad Bhagwan Dadarao
Associate Professor & Head Departmetnt of English
Reserch Supervisor
K.R.M.Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nanded

Research Centre
School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
S.R.T.M.University Campus, Nanded

April 2022

Introduction :

A mythology is a collection of myths or stories about a specific person, culture, religion or any group with shared beliefs. The word Mythology originated from the Greek word *Mythos* means story-of-the-people,and *logos* for word or speech, so the spoken story of the people. It is the study and interpretation of often sacred tales or fables of a culture known as myths or the collections of such stories which deal with various aspects of the human condition : good and evil ; the meaning of suffering; human origins; the origin of place names,animals, cultural values, and traditions; the meaning of life and death;the afterlife; and celestial stories of the Gods or a God. Myths experess the beliefs and values about these subjects held by a certain culture.

Mythology has been the origin of every culture. It is the foundation of every culture. Classical mythology became the root for western civilized culture as Greek and Roman. For Indian mythological writings such as Epics, Vedas, Upanishads and Puranas provided strong base to shape refined culture. Indian mythological works cover all the human experiences. They also touch every social concern, Portrayal of men and women characters from various perspectives had also been main concern of Indian myths. Especially *Ramanayana* and *Mahabharata* produced universal male and female characters.These two legendary epics portray marginalised, subjugated female characters.

Indian English literature flourished in all types of generes whether it is poetry, drama, non-fiction, biography and autobiography. Many writers contributed to all of above literary devices. But novel gained much popularity compared to others. Indian English fiction made its journey through different perspectives . It also gave much space to different social issues. Such as feministic writing and female subject of concern.

In 1972 with the publication of *A Vindication of the Rightsb of Women* Mary

Wollstoncraft took initiative for the rights of woman in the west. Following her ,Margaret Fuller, J.S.Mill, Virginia Wolf, Simon De Beauvoir, Katherine M.Roger, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubart tried to depict statu of woman who was suffering from subjugation. The status of woman in India is highly contradictory on the one hand the literary works celebrate women as *Shakti, Lakshmi,Durga* and *Saraswati* but on the other hand they are treated as secondary and property of male.

The early women writers like Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai, Anandibai Joshi were beginners who started to raise voice for women.The actual awakening of female psyche and its investigation started by the writrers like Ruth Parwar Jhabwala, Kamala Markandaya, Nayantara Sehgal, Anita Desai, Shashi Deshpande, Shobha De and Manju Kapoor. Postmodern Indian writers like Ashok Bankar, Amish Tripathi, Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni, Kavita Kane, Namita Gokhale, Anand Neelkanthan, Devadutt Pattanaik, Aswin Sanghi etc. have tried to look at myths with new dimensions. They emphasized multiple possible truths by throwing light on modern India to make a dianaemic modern cultural identity and woman of India who need a female centric literary tradition to assert their subjectivity.

Indian mythology continued to remain a favoured genere of fiction. But contemporary Hindu mythology has adopted a different approach. Contemporary writers like Amish Tripathi, Ashok Bankar, Ashwini Sanghi, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Kavita Kane and many others analysed and interpreted characters of mythologies and gave them shape of universal characters.

Literature that manifests the wide spectrum of human life expanding the horizens of human vision occupies a higher pedestal among the other streams of knowledge . It is the fictional quality of literature which facilitates the readers to see the unseen and feel the unfelt, that raised the popularity of literarture. Myth and mythology that represent the rich culture of ancient and bygone eras, still continue to shape and influence indian psyche, especially through the tales and characters of the mighty epics – The Ramayana and The Mahabharata.

Indian English fictions retell and even go to the bold limits of revisionist narratives and chancing upon amazing discoveries of unvoiced characters from the golden pages of much celebrated Indian myths.

The present proposed research focuses on selected novels of two Indian women novelists Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane. These two women novelists have mythological characters as protagonists of their respective works but they differ in many ways. To have comprehensive study of these two women novelists the researcher has selected three novels of Kavita Kane, ***Karna's Wife***, ***Sita's Sister and Lanka's Princess*** and two novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni , ***The Palace of Illusion*** and ***The Forest of Enchantments***.

Significance of the study :

The proposed research work is significant in many ways as it co-relates once privileged status of woman with the contemporary one.It also compare the status of woman in configuration in single culture both past and present. It mainly relates less important and neglected women figures of Indian mythology. It suggests to provide equal status of women in society as human beings.

Scope and limitations :

Mythology and mythological studies is a vast area of knowledge.Much Indian English literature is seen to have thsese elements. Present selected novelists Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane are women novelists. Both of them write about suffering of women in marginalised conditions. This proposed study also focuses on the feministic approach of novelists to portray women of Indian mythological epics through new dimensions. The researcher will study five novels of selected women novelists.

A] Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni

1] The Palace of Illusion (2008)

2] The Forest of Enchantments (2019)

B] Kavita Kane

1] Karna's Wife (2013)

2] Sita's Siste (2014)

3] Lanka's Princess (2016)

The present study only focuses on the Indian English mythological writers and much concerned with two novels of Chitra Banerjee. Divakaruni and three novels of Kavita Kane.

Review of Literature:-

As per the process and for the porogress of research we need a handy review of litearature . The researcher will analyse and study following reviews of literature.

1] Cultural crisis in Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni's sel ected novels : A study
By Suresh Kumar

2] Mythical representation of women in select novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakarn
By S Murugranjan

3] Women characters in the novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni a search of self ide tity
By Sachita Mishra

4] Myth in contemporary Indian fiction in English a critical study
By Vitthani Kirtikumar B

5] Predicament of women in select novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni

By Nakade Meena Murlidhar

6] Virgins and vamps :A study of female gaze through the select works of Devdutt

Pattanaik and Kavita Kane

- By Bidhasha Kantha

07] Retellings of myths -A study of Kavita Kane's works

- By D Monisha and Dr. S.P.Shant

08] Retrival of female subjectivity in Indian English writing: Kavita Kane's feministic concern

- By M Asha Dr. K Niandini

09] Kavita Kane's Karna's Wife , Urvi :A critical analysis

- By K, Viji

10] Giving voice to the voiceless: a clash of dominant and divergent idea in Sita's Sister and Menaka's Choice by Kavita Kane

- By Lavanya R Mohan

Aims and objectives of research :-

1] To study myth and modernity in selected novels.

2] To study transformed image of of women i n selected novels.

3] To focus upon masculine gaze and women's search for selfhood in the selected novels.

4] To study portrayal of unspoken women characters in the selected novels.

5] To analyse feminist revisionist of mythology and women in solidarity in the selected novels.

6] To study misunderstood women characters in the selected novlels..

Hypothesis :-

The present proposed research is based on the hypothesis that Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane as women mythological novelists emphasized in their novels .

1] Myth and modernity are combined in women characterization .

2] Women image was transformed .

3] Women suffered from masculine gaze and searched for selfhood in entire life .

4] Unspoken women characters portraited in the novel .

5] Women characters were revisioned .

6] Women characters were misunderstood .

The present proposed research is based on ***Representation of women in Indian mythology :A study of selected novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane .***

Research Methodology :-

1] The researcher will read and analyse original texts, He will use analytical, comparative, descriptive, interpretative and evaluative method.

2] The study takes reviews of Indian mythological writers and representation of various female characters.

3] Researcher will refer various critical commentaries, national and international journals for the original works.

4] Resercher will go through different reaserch articles and papers.

Data Collection :

Data collection will Original texts by Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane take place by dividing into two categories

1] Primary Data

Original texts by Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane

A] Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni

1] The Palace of Illusion (2008)

2] The Forest of Enchantments (2019)

B] Kavita Kane

1] Karna's Wife (2013)

2] Sita's Siste (2014)

3] Lanka's Princess (2016)

2] Secondary Data

Critical commentaries, research articles, national and international journals,interviews

by news agencies.

Reserch Design :-

Chapter – 1 Introduction

A] Biography of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Kavita Kane .

Mythology and feministic concerns.

B] Reviw of literature :

Review of Indian English mythological works to present day.Indian novelists in

English, women novelists and women mythological novelists .

Chapter - 2 Myth and Modernity and tranformred image of women.

This chapter deals with the theme of myth and modernity and transformed image of women in the selected novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni.

Chapter -3 Unspoken, Misunderstood Women Characters.

This chapter deals unspoken, misunderstood women characters who have been revisioned in the selected novels of Kavita Kane .

Chapter - 4 Revision of Mythology and Women Solidarity

This chapter deals with revision Indian mythological characters in the novels of Kavita Kane and also deals with women solidarity .

Chapter -5 Conclusion

Women of Indian mythology such as Sita, Draupadi ,Urmila, Shakuntala have been put on pedestals of honour,fortitude and what is regarded as ideal womenhood but contemporary writers and creative performances are reading in between the lines and bringing out certain nuances in their charactersthat make them more humanand more accessible. Writers also training their literary lenses at lesser woman characters who habve been otherwise overshadowed by the heroines.

Kavita Kane presents mythically silent characters.She is successful in portraying forgotten ,unnoticedand unheard characters such a*s Uruvi* , Urmila and *Shurpanakha.* Their journey is truly quest for voice, an identity and personal progress. Chitra Banerjee Div karuni presented powerful and revolutionary characters as Draupadi and Sita. Thus these women novelists have successfully reinterpreted women characters through their art of fiction.

References and Bibliography

1] Primary sources –

. Divakruni,Chitra Banerjee ,The Palace of Illusion ,Delhi,Rupa Publication,2008

. Divakruni,Chitra Banerjee ,the Forest of Enchantments ,Delhi,Rupa Publication,2019

. Kane ,Kavita,Karna's Wife ,Delhi,Rupa Publication,2013

. Kane ,Kavita,Sita's Sister ,Delhi,Rupa Publication,2014

. Kane, Kavita ,Lanka's Princess, Delhi,Rupa Publication, 2016

2] Secondary Sources –

. Abrams,M.H.,A Glossary of Literary Terms ,Benglore,Prison Books Pvt.Ltd.,2007

. Anand T.S,A Psychological approach in R R Dhawans Indian women novelists

,Delhi,prestige books,2009

. Thaper,Ancient Indian social history :some interpretations,Hyderabad:Orient

Longman,1978

. Waugh,Patricia,Literary Theory and Criticism ,New York:OUP,2006

. Wadely , Susan,Women and Hindu tradition signs joubrnal of women in cultural

society,3.1(1977)113-125

A feministic study of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni and Manju Kapur ‘s selected novels

in Indian contexet.

By Dixit Pushpa D

Survival of women in select novels of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni a Humanistic approach

By Kavitha V

perspective a study on the select works of Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni

By Princee R

Webliography –

https//www.google.com

https//en.m.wikipedoia.org

https//shodhganga.inflibinet.ac.in

Researcher

Gopikrishna Anantrao Yelwatkar

Reserch Supervisor

Dr.Gunjalwad Bhagwan Dadarao
Associate Professor & Head Departmetnt of English
Reserch Supervisor
K.R.M.Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nanded